GOVERNMENT OF INDIA
HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE
LOK SABHA

UNSTARRED QUESTION NO:4396
ANSWERED ON:12.08.2016
Privatisation of Medical Sector
Chandrakasi Shri M.

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

Will the Minister of HEALTH AND FAMILY WELFARE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government is aware that some States have introduced payment of token charges of availing services in the Government hospitals and some States have privatised their medical sector;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the steps being taken by the Government to ensure availability of free basic medical services and other medical services at affordable rates to poor people?

Answer

ANSWER
THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HEALTH AND
FAMILY WELFARE
(SHRI FAGGAN SINGH KULASTE)
(a) & (b): Public Health being a State subject, information regarding user charges levied by States/ UTs is not maintained centrally. However, in the Common Review Mission (CRM) report 2014, it is mentioned that some states like Punjab, Chhattisgarh and West Bengal charge user fees (in public facilities run on public private partnerships only) but these charges are waived off for all below poverty line population, pregnant woman and children. The Rogi Kalyan Samiti Guidelines do provide for public health facilities to be able to charge user fee from non-poor patients.
(c): Public Health being a State subject, the primary responsibility to ensure availability of basic medical services free of cost and other medical services at affordable rates to poor people lies with the State Governments. Under NHM, support is provided to States/UTs for strengthening their healthcare system for provision of accessible, affordable and quality healthcare to all the citizens. The Central Government has already taken steps towards provision of free services for maternal health, child health, adolescent health, family planning, universal immunization programme, and for major diseases such as TB, vector borne diseases such as Malaria, dengue and Kala Azar,HIV/AIDS, leprosy etc. Other major initiatives for which states are being supported include Janani Shishu Suraksha Karyakram (JSSK), Rashtriya Bal Swasthya Karyakram (RBSK), Rashtriya Kishor Swasthya Karyakram (RKSK), implementation of National Health Mission Free Drugs Service Initiative and National Health Mission Free Diagnostics Service Initiative. In addition, under the Rashtriya Swasthya Bima Yojana (RSBY), cashless benefit upto Rs. 30,000 per annum per family for specified hospitalisation procedures is available to all BPL population and eleven other categories of vulnerable population groups.
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